



EUCIS-LLL MANIFESTO

Building together the future of learning

12 Priorities for lifelong learning

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2014

The 2014 European elections will provide the right momentum to think about the future of learning in Europe. The current economic and social crisis gave a new impetus to deeper cooperation in education and training with a high focus on growth and employment while at the same time austerity measures have weakened our educational systems. EUCIS-LLL believes that a **sustainable investment** should be made in learning as essential for our social model, in line with their prioritization at EU level. Poor access to lifelong learning limits people's ability to access quality jobs and participate fully in society. We need **a vision to ensure our education and training systems deliver better** for economic development, social and civic participation, personal fulfilment and well-being.

EUCIS-LLL calls MEPs to consider three top priorities:



- 1. Ensure accessible and quality learning for all**
- 2. Invest in the social dimension of lifelong learning**
- 3. Bring the EU closer to its citizens**

TIME TO ACT

Over the past years the EU has gained **more and more influence** in the field of education and training. It is now an important element of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Even though education and training do remain a national competence, one cannot deny that the boundaries of the subsidiarity principle are being redefined. Today this cooperation remains **far away from of European citizens**. We need the European Parliament and civil society to be further engaged in the future of learning in Europe. This mission should be accomplished in a transparent and accountable way to improve EU democracy - notably through a regular dialogue with civil society.

EUCIS-LLL calls MEPs to:



- Set up of an intergroup on lifelong learning**

CAN EUROPE AFFORD IT?

- 1 / 4 adult with low educational attainment
- 1 / 10 adult participating in lifelong learning
- 1 / 5 teenager with low reading literacy performance
- 1,3 / 10 early school leavers

source: Eurostat

*An investment in knowledge pays the best interest. B. Franklin
Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. Nelson Mandela
Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. John F. Kennedy
There are some people who live in a dream world, and there are some who face reality;
and then there are those who turn one into the other. Erasmus*

1. ENSURE ACCESSIBLE AND QUALITY LEARNING FOR ALL

1 PEDAGOGIC INNOVATION

Encourage **pedagogic innovation** by putting the learner at the centre. Support enhanced learning experiences and **new learning solutions** such as e-learning, distance learning and open educational resources.

2 QUALITY ASSESSMENT

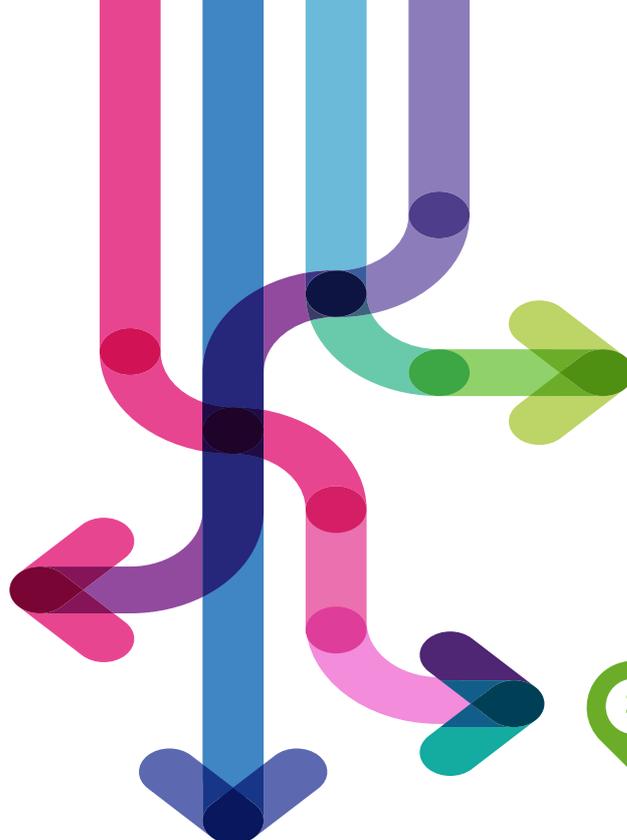
Reflect upon **quality, tailored-made assessment** and evaluation mechanisms that better reflect the competences acquired during the learning process.

4 FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

Support a wider use of **European transparency tools** and the setting up by 2018 of national **validation** mechanisms for non-formal and informal learning to foster flexible learning pathways and facilitate access to the labour market.

3 EDUCATORS' WORKING CONDITIONS

Advocate to improve **teachers, facilitators and trainers'** initial and continuous training as well as their working conditions; offer a better societal recognition of their role, as well as that of other members of the educating community.



WHO ARE WE?

The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) is an umbrella association that gathers 33 European organisations active in the field of education and training, coming from all EU Member States and beyond. Currently these networks represent more than 45 000 educational institutions (schools, universities, adult education and youth centres, etc.) or associations (involving students, teachers and trainers, parents, HRD professionals, etc.) covering all sectors of formal, non-formal and informal learning. Their members reach out to several millions of beneficiaries.

Established in 2005, EUCIS-LLL promotes a vision of lifelong learning based on equity, social cohesion, active citizenship and personal development. The platform works as a space for knowledge exchange between its member organisations and uses their expertise to discuss and feed in EU policy-making, making sure that European citizens have their voice heard. In that sense EUCIS-LLL contributes to a better understanding and dialogue between the grassroots level and European institutions.



2. INVEST IN THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

5 NO MORE SEGREGATION

Recognize the role played by **non-formal and informal learning** for active inclusion and social cohesion. Fight against the **marginalization** of vulnerable groups and promote intercultural dialogue and tolerance.

6 LEARNING MOBILITY

Defend the idea that **learning mobility** should be the rule and not the exception and ensure every one can access programmes regardless of their socio-economic and cultural background.

8 LIFELONG GUIDANCE

Strengthen and coordinate **guidance services** from the earliest age, as the learner's compass to find the best tailored-made learning opportunities at all levels (national, regional, EU).

7 KEY COMPETENCES & BASIC SKILLS

Promote the acquisition of **basic skills**, in particular foreign language skills, as the lack of such skills hinders citizens' chances of finding a job and participating in society. Refer to the **European Key Competences Framework** as a basic framework for all educational sectors.

VISION

- Acknowledge lifelong learning as a key instrument for employability but above all for social inclusion and democratic participation as well as for personal development and well-being.
- Adopt a broader approach to the skills challenge Europe is facing by referring to the European Framework of Key Competences for lifelong learning – so that our citizens can cope with socio-economic changes and become true lifelong learners.
- Focus on learning outcomes as much as on the learning process and adopt a life-wide approach to learning where all kinds of learning – formal, non-formal, informal – are recognised as genuine paths to gain competences and skills.
- Make sure that proper investment is made in Europe to optimise European lifelong learning strategies by raising awareness on the negative consequences of current cuts for GDP and societal well-being. Education and training should be valued as a resource for growth, democracy and national welfare.
- Reflect on progress measurement in lifelong learning and on innovative indicators that match this vision.
- Contribute to the social recognition of access to lifelong learning as a fundamental right!



3. BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS

9 EUROPEAN CIVIC EDUCATION

Give priority to **European civic education** to ensure all citizens have a basic understanding about the EU and its common values.

10 GOOD GOVERNANCE

Contribute to the debate about the revision of the **governance** of EU cooperation in Education and Training (ET2020, Open Method of Coordination; European Semester) and strengthen the **engagement of civil society**.

12 STATUTE OF EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION

Reinitiate the impulse on the setting up of a **European Statute for the European Association**, giving institutional recognition to the engagement and to the activism of millions of citizens.

11 CIVIL DIALOGUE

Acknowledge the role played by European organisations in education and training by implementing an open, transparent and regular **dialogue with representative associations and civil society** (article 11 TUE). Set up an **Intergroup on Lifelong Learning** at the European Parliament.

CONTACT

